

Gig and Jay lived on the Bartlett Ranch in Torro, Wyoming, with their parents, a herd of cattle, horses and ponies, and other assorted farm animals. Gig was twelve and Jay was fifteen. They helped their father break in new horses and herd cattle. It was a long day's work and the boys looked forward to the evenings when Mom would make hearty meals.

That night, after herding cattle for ten miles, the boys washed up and sat down for supper. Mom had made pork chops and creamed potatoes, Gig's favorite. The boys and their father ate with gusto, and they then helped Mom clean the table. Afterwards, they sat in front of the fire and discussed the day's work.

Gig pointed out to Dad that the fence on the west side of the property needed mending. "I think that some coyotes are trying to dig a hole under the fence to get after our cattle and chickens," said Gig. Dad said they could mend it the next morning on the way out to the herd of cattle. "I don't think it will take us very long, and we can mend it with chicken wire," said Dad.

Then their father suggested that the boys have some sort of party as a reward for all of their hard work. Gig and Jay thought about the idea, and then Jay suggested they have a rodeo and invite the teenagers

from the surrounding ranches to compete. Gig thought it was a great idea. Then he added to it a funny twist. He said he wanted to race Shetland ponies instead of horses. Jay laughed at the thought of their long legs dragging the ground as they raced around barrels.

The next weekend, the boys invited fifteen of their friends to come over. They raced their ponies around barrels and down the stretch. Gig won one race but Jay's pony was cranky and kept running in circles until Jay got dizzy.

Afterwards, they ate barbeque and watermelon that Mom and Dad had prepared for them. The watermelon was cold and juicy. The teenagers ate five of them! When it was time to go home, several of the boys' friends said that they enjoyed the pony race very much. Gig decided that it would become a summer tradition at the Bartlett ranch.

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